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PROCEEDINGS AND TRANSACTIONS.

GENERAL MEETING, held in the Tholsel Rooms, Kilkenny, on
Wednesday, November 7th, 1855,

THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF LEIGHLIN,
in the Chair.

Present, the following members :—

Robert Curtis, Esq., C. I.	Thomas B. M ^c Creery, Esq.
Abraham Denroche, Esq.	Rev. James Mease.
John Fitzsimons, Esq.	John G. A. Prim, Hon. Sec.
Rev. W. C. Gorman.	R. Smithwick, Esq., J. P.
Rev. James Graves, Hon. Sec.	J. M. Tidmarsh, Esq., Mayor of
John James, Esq., L.R.C.S.I.	Kilkenny.
Z. Johnson, Esq., F.R.C.S.I.	Richard Wheeler, Esq., J. P.

The following new members were elected :—

The Right Hon. Lord Dungannon, F. S. A., M. R. I. A.,
Brynkinalt, Chirk, Denbighshire; Beauchamp Colclough, Esq.,
Wexford Militia, George's-street, Wexford; and M. Hanlon, Esq.,
M. D., Portarlinton: proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

Joseph Dickinson, M. A. and M. D., F. R. S., M. R. I. A.,
President of the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society,
Great George-square, Liverpool; Joseph Mayer, Esq., F. S. A.,
Lord-street, Liverpool;¹ Edward Benn, Esq., Vauxhall Distillery,
Liverpool; and Mr. William M. Hennessy, 2, Crow-street, Dublin:
proposed by R. Hitchcock, Esq.

James M. Kennedy, Esq., 47, Gloucester-terrace, Dublin: pro-
posed by Henry O'Neill, Esq.

Mr. P. Ellis, Christian Brothers' Schools, Waterford: proposed
by Mr. P. Reardon.

¹ Mr. Mayer is the purchaser of the celebrated Faussett collection of Anglo-Saxon antiquities and manuscripts, the offer of which had been rejected by the Trustees of the British Museum,

and which he has thus saved from dispersion. We believe Mr. Mayer has presented this invaluable collection to the public of Liverpool.—See Smith's "Collectanea Antiqua," vol. iii.

Mr. Patrick Kennedy, 6, Anglesea-street, Dublin : proposed by Mr. J. O'Daly.

Rev. Thomas Greene, R.C.C., Athy : proposed by Robert B. Wright, Esq.

John Rees, Esq., 2, Millfield-lane, Highgate Rise, London : proposed by William O'Connor, Esq., M.D.

H. H. Boxwell, Esq., M.D., Wexford ; and John Murphy, Esq., Mount Loftus, Goresbridge : proposed by Robert Cane, Esq., M.D.

James O'Flynn, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, 16, Nelson-street, Dublin : proposed by Edward Fitzgerald, Esq.

The following presentations were received, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors :—

By Hodder Westropp, Esq. : a gutta percha impression from a fragment of the original matrix of an ecclesiastical seal in his possession. A part of the figure of a bishop, seated, and a small portion of the inscription, were visible. The inscription read ARDMACHAENSIS EPI The form of the letters indicated an early date, probably the beginning of the thirteenth century.

By Edward Benn, Esq. : a coloured plate of various glass beads found in Ireland, being a copy of that used to illustrate a paper contributed by him to the "Transactions" of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, vol. vii. p. 97. Mr. Benn wished to draw the attention of members to this much neglected branch of Irish antiquities. From the small intrinsic value of such things, they were seldom preserved when found.

By the Rev. James Graves : a carved domino box with cribbage table on the sides, made by the French prisoners confined in Kilkenny during the Peninsular war. The box was made from the bones of the beef which they received as rations.

By John Turner, Esq., Principal of the Dundalk Institution : a Cingalese book, composed of a number of pieces of the leaves of a tree of the palm tribe, written over, and *strung* on two cords of catgut between two pieces of wood.¹

By Lieut. William P. Hyland, Tower Hamlet's Militia : a large collection of modern half-penny tokens, and some ancient coins.

By the Royal Society of Antiquaries of the North : a selection from their publications, mentioned in the accompanying communications addressed to the Secretary by Prof. Rafn :—

"TO THE KILKENNY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

"Copenhagen le 25 juillet, 1855.

"La Société Royale des Antiquaires du Nord a vu avec satisfaction que les faits que présentent l'histoire, la langue, la littérature et les rap-

¹ See an engraving of a Cingalese book in the "Penny Magazine" for 1833, p. 216.

ports ethnographiques du Nord de l'Europe, ont été reconnus de quelque importance aussi pour les pays étrangers.

"C'est en considérant cette circonstance qu'elle a cru devoir adresser les Mémoires ou Rapports qu'elle publie, à celles des institutions scientifiques auxquelles elle attribue l'intention d'en vouloir mettre à profit les recherches qu'elle a entreprises ou les résultats qu'elle en a obtenus.

"Le désir d'être utile est donc le but qu'elle espère atteindre par ces envois, mais craignant d'imposer par là au receveur l'obligation d'en accuser réception, elle le pria de s'en dispenser comme d'un moyen d'éviter réciproquement toute espèce de dépense inutile.

"Je saisis cette occasion pour vous prier d'agréer l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

"Le Secrétaire de la Société

"CHAS. C. RAFN.

"'Mémoires de la Société Royale des Antiquaires du Nord,' 1845-1849.

"'Saga Játvardar Konúngs hins Helga' (The Saga of St. Edward; the original text edited from an Icelandic codex in the Royal Library of Stockholm, by C. C. Rafn and John Sigurdsson).

"'Antiquarisk Tidsskrift,' 1852-1853.

"'Nordboernes Forbindelser med Østen i det niende og nærmest følgende Aarhundreder, af Carl Christian Rafn.'

"'Ejusedem,' 'The Discovery of America by the Northmen,' and 'Connection of the Northmen with the East.'

"Des exemplaires de ces deux résumés pour les membres de la direction et les collaborateurs de votre institut."

"TO THE KILKENNY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

"Copenhagen le 25 juillet, 1855.

"MONSIEUR,—La Société Royale des Antiquaires du Nord vous accuse réception de votre offre de vouloir bien nous envoyer vos Transactions que vous avez bien voulu lui adresser.

"Je vous prie de la part de la Société d'en agréer l'expression de ses remerciements.

"Recevez, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

"Le Secrétaire de la Société

"CHAS. C. RAFN."

By the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, United States:—

"Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge.—The Antiquities of Wisconsin, as surveyed and described; by I. A. Lapham, Civil Engineer, &c.; on behalf of the American Antiquarian Society."

"Appendix.—Publications of Learned Societies and Periodicals in the Library of the Smithsonian Institution," part 1.

"Eighth and Ninth Annual Reports of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution." 2 Vols.

The Secretary congratulated the Meeting on the friendly relations entered into with these distinguished foreign Societies.

By the Society of Antiquaries of London: "Archæologia," Vol. XXXVI. part 1; "Proceedings," Nos. 41-2; and "List of Fellows," for 1855.

By the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland: their "Proceedings," Vol. I. part 3.

By the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society: their first annual volume, comprising "A Selection of Papers read before the Society since its Formation;" also several "Reports."

By the Cambrian Archæological Association: "Archæologia Cambrensis," Third Series, No. 4.

By Robert MacAdam, Esq.: "The Ulster Journal of Archæology," No. 12.

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 659 to 665, inclusive.

By the Author, William Kelly, Esq.: "Ancient Records of Leicester."

By the Translator, Hodder Westropp, Esq.: "Lectures on Ancient Art," by Raoul Rochette.

By the Author: "Legends of Mount Leinster."

Archdeacon Cotton forwarded for exhibition the ancient stone cross discovered by him in the course of excavations at Lismore Cathedral (see p. 223, *ante*); he also had presented to the Society the wood engraving on the opposite page, which accurately represented this very curious memorial cross, supposed to be the smallest specimen of so very ancient a date known to exist. The cross had been cut in compact sand-stone, and was very much mutilated. Of the legend, $\overline{OR} . \overline{OO} . \overline{CORMAC}$ —a prayer for Cormac—was plainly legible; but there remained indications of a further inscription, of which p only seemed decipherable. Dr. Cotton intended finally to restore the cross to its proper locality.

Mr. Lawless, Rose-Inn-street, Kilkenny, sent for exhibition a silver cross of ancient date—probably belonging to the fifteenth century. It had been gilt, and consisted of four Maltese-shaped crosses, set round a fifth of the same form, and somewhat larger than the others; the workmanship was elegant, the projections being worked into clusters of grapes. In the centre cross was set a garnet, a smaller stone of the same kind in the lower limb, and two turquoise (?) at each side. The stone which had ornamented the upper limb was lost. On the back was engraved, in extremely low relief, the Crucifixion, surrounded by the emblems of the Evangelists,—all much worn. The cross measured two inches and two-tenths across the arms.

Mr. Robertson exhibited a fine specimen of the medal struck in commemoration of the late well-known archæologist, Dean Dawson; obverse, the Dean's bust, in the exergue, **THE VERY REV^d. HENRY**



ANCIENT IRISH CROSS,

DISCOVERED AT LISMORE CATHEDRAL.

Scale, 3-10ths of an inch to one inch.

RICHARD DAWSON, D. S. P. D.—reverse, a design representing the widow, the fatherless, the aged destitute, and the genius of antiquity, weeping over a tomb, and, underneath, the record, OB. OCT. XXIV. M.DCCC.XL. The medal was engraved by Woodhouse. Dean Dawson was for a long time a resident of the county of Kilkenny, where he held several ecclesiastical preferments. Had he been spared, his countenance and aid would not have been wanting to the Kilkenny Archæological Society.

The Rev. George H. Reade communicated the discovery, near Inniskeen, Dundalk, of a specimen of the so-called “ring-money,” unique as being composed of 64 plates of dark and pale gold alternating, the plates most beautifully joined so as to form a continuous bar. As usual, the ring was not soldered where the ends met. It had been purchased by Evelyn P. Shirley, Esq., M. P.

Mr. James F. Ferguson¹ sent a transcript of a letter, throwing some light on electioneering practices in the county of Kilkenny more than a century ago. The writer was an ancestor of the present Sir R. Langrishe of Knocktopher; the letter had probably been addressed to Baron Worth, and so came to remain in the Irish Exchequer, where it was found amongst that Judge’s papers. It was as follows :—

“[] Carrick *Sepr* 7th 1715.

“[] was wth Coll: Ponsonby [] him y^r lett^r hee is very stedfast in his promise to serve M^r Worth² in y^e Ellection of Knocktopher and it is to bee next fryday & M^r Wall will joine wth M^r Worth in y^e Expences Equall shares, the same day the Knights of the shiere will bee chosen at Knocktopher & y^e Coll: thinks y^t will bee y^e best time for to choose members for y^e Burrow of Knocktopher because most of y^e Coll^s & M^r Walls ten^{ts} are freeholders of y^e County as well as Ellect^{rs} for y^t Burrow; there is a Hogshead of Wine provided & I will provide Cold meate. If M^r Worth has any Comands for mee let him direct to mee to Knocktopher neer Killkenny. I hope M^r Worth will contribute something towards bringing a horse Barrack to []ktopher. The post is j[] to give my service to [] coz Dolly & Jane.

“D^r. S.

“If M^r Worth cannot bee at Knocktopher I doubt not but to carry his Ellection in his absence.”

“Yo^r most aff^t coz & most humble serv^t

“JO LANGRISHE.

The seal bore a chevron between three boars’ heads.

¹ Since the above was put in type, this Society, no less than the public generally, has suffered an irreparable loss in the removal by death of Mr. Ferguson.—EDS.

² *M^r Worth*. — Edward Worth, of Blanchfield, Rathfarnham, was elected to represent Knocktopher in the Irish Parliament, A. D. 1695, 1703, 1713, 1715, and 1727.—Lib. Muner. Hibn.

The Rev. James Graves contributed a transcript of an ancient charter, the original of which was preserved in the Evidence Chamber, Kilkenny Castle. In addition to some other interesting peculiarities, it was connected with the name of Clyn, at a period when the annalist Clyn was alive, and, it might be fairly presumed, with a member of the same family. The researches of Dean Butler, the writer of the admirable introduction to Clyn's and Dowling's Annals, as published by the Irish Archæological Society, have not brought to light much connected with this eminent historian. That he was a native of Kilkenny has been presumed from the importance given to Kilkenny matters in his annals; but, except that a person of a somewhat similar name was parson of the Church of the Holy Cross of Castlecomer in the fifteenth century,¹ nothing further had hitherto been ascertained. This charter, however, proved that Nicholas de Clyn was the husband of Margaret de Pembroke, and had certain rights of property in the county of Kilkenny in 1331. The charter was as follows:—

“Sciant presentes et futuri, quod ego Rogerus de Pembrok miles² dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Nicholao de Clyn,³ et Margarete uxori ejus filie mee, et heredibus eorum communam pasture [sic] in omnibus terris et tenementis meis de cappagh,⁴ balibrenan,⁵ et

¹ *Fifteenth century*. “Rex statum Walteri Clyn parsonis ecclesie sancte crucis de Castlecomer Ossoriensis Diocesis ratificat, Kilkennie, 12 Maii.”—Rot. Pat. 1 Hen. IV., m. 76.

² *Rogerus de Pembrok miles*. It appears by the Patent Roll of the 11th year of Edward II., that Roger, son of Roger de Pembrok, was, in consideration of services done, forgiven by the King £115, due by the former as sheriff of Tipperary; and by the Patent Roll of the 18th year of the same King, that Roger de Pembrok, Knight, was bound, along with other persons connected with Kilkenny, in the sum of £1000, to Richard de Ledrede, Bishop of Ossory. The latter entry connects Sir Roger de Pembroke with the celebrated prosecution for witchcraft got up by the Bishop against Dame Alice Kyteler. The connexion of the Clyn, by marriage, with the knightly family of De Pembrok is an interesting fact. The name Pembroke still exists in Kilkenny, but, like the names of others of the proudest of the early Anglo-Norman settlers, it

has descended to the humbler ranks of society. Attached to the deed is an impression, in brown wax, of Sir Roger de Pembrok's seal: it is circular, about 1½ inches in diameter, and bears on a heater-shaped shield, a chevron between three crescents. The shield seems also to be divided per pale. Burke in his “General Armory” gives —Pembroke, per pale argent and or a chevron between three crescents gules. Round the edge of the seal runs the legend, in Lombardic capitals, **✠ SIGILL : ROGERE : DE PEBROCK**. The spaces between the sides and top of the shield and the outer circle are filled in by three dragons.

³ *Clyn*. Walter Clyn served on a jury in the Court of the Liberty of Kilkenny, held by Arnold le Poer, Seneschal, A.D. 1324. — “Liber Primus” of the Corporation of Kilkenny, p. 6, col. a.

⁴ *Cappagh*. A townland situate in the parish of St. Canice, to the north-west of Kilkenny, near Bonnetstown.

⁵ *Balibrenan*. I have not been able to identify this denomination.

balyfynan,¹ cum pertinenciis, et vbique alibi in Slilylkir,² ad omnia et omnimoda animalia ipsorum Nicholai et Margarete et heredum eorum omni tempore anni, exceptis capris:³ vna cum libero ingressu, exitu, et regressu vibiusque dicta animalia existant vel morantur. Dedi eciam et concessi predictis Nicholao, et Margarete, et heredibus eorum vbicunque infra vel extra terram meam manserunt, seu locum vel domicilium habuerint, husbote, heybote, et ffyrbote in bosco meo de Kylenebolle⁴ et alrene-wood⁵ et ubi [ali]bi in boscis et grauibus meis, excepta precipua grauia mea iuxta domum immediate iacentem de Capagh. Habendum et tenendum predictis Nicholao, et Margarete, et heredibus eorum dictam communam pasture [sic] vna cum husbote, heybote, et ffyrbote bene et in pace, &c. In cuius rei testimonium sigillum meum presenti carte apposui hiis testibus, ffulcone de la ffrene Senescallo tunc Kylkenie, Reymundo Lercedekne, et Johanne blancheuyl Militibus et aliis. Datum Kylkenie sexto die Novembris anno domini M^o ccc^o xxxi^o, et anno Regni Regis Edwardi post conquestum quinto.”

Mr. Patrick Kennedy, the author of “Legends of Mount Leinster,” elected a member on this day, contributed a legend (which has been told in a different form in that work) as related by the peasantry of the district lying on the Wexford slopes of the Mount Leinster range. It was as follows:—

“A long time ago, the valleys on the south-eastern side of Mount Leinster were laid waste by a terrible animal, whose haunt was in a pool near the bridge of Thuar. It is indifferently called by the names of serpent, dragon, eel, and elephant.

“At last a deputation was sent to the court of the King of Munster, begging that some knight of prowess might be sent to destroy the pest; and three warriors were selected for the enterprise.

“One of these did not cease to boast from the beginning, that he himself alone was worthy of achieving the exploit; but, when the day of departure drew near, his heart failed him, and he insisted on renouncing the dangerous honour. However, a big, simple, quiet brother of his, who, to this time, had never done anything more remarkable than hold the plough or drive home the cows, started up from the ash-corner on hearing his brother’s profession of fear, and vowed that he would devote himself for

¹ *Balyfynan*. The monument of James Sent Leger of Balleffennon, who died in 1597, is in the Cathedral of St. Canice, Kilkenny; and by an inquisition taken at Kilkenny, 16th January, 1634, Robert St. Leager was found in his lifetime to have been seised of the towns, hamlets, and lands of Fennors-town, alias Ballyfennor, and Keilenebolle, alias Kiltreanel. The mode in which the St. Legers came into possession of these lands I have not been able to ascertain.

² *Slilylkir*. Now the barony of Shillelogher, in the county of Kilkenny.

³ *Exceptis capris*. This exception is curious.

⁴ *Kylenebolle*. Now Kyleneaboul, or Woodlands, in the parish of St. Patrick. It is singular that these lands are still entirely clothed with natural wood.

⁵ *Alrene-wood*. Name now obsolete; perhaps it means the alder-wood. There is a marsh near Kyleneaboul well suited for the growth of alders, but at present bare of timber.

the honour of the family. So the three set forward, and arrived safely at the top of Mount Leinster, the nearest point from which they could get a glimpse of the enemy with any safety, for he had the undesirable power (as far as his neighbours were concerned) of sucking into his throat any living object that had the ill luck to come within three miles of his hold.

"Having taken a peep at the black pool lying far below them, and the terrible 'piast' lying in a state of coma at its side, for he was now in a stupid condition after a huge meal in which he had lately indulged, they cast lots, and our big 'omadhan' was pointed out for the first trial. Telling his comrades that if he escaped alive he would light a fire at the edge of the pool, he got himself carefully inserted into a big sack of charcoal, and, being provided with a trusty sharp skene, he had himself conveyed to the neighbouring hill of Coolgarrow to abide the awakening of the dragon. This revival taking place in the usual course, the monster turned himself round, and getting scent of flesh in the southern direction, he began to exhaust the air on that side, and the sack and its contents were soon in his gullet. Feeling the hard charcoal under his tusks, he concluded that they were bones, and swallowed his prize without any misgivings. When the champion judged that he had got well inside, he began to use his weapon underneath; and the 'piast' finding something uncomfortable going on inside, rushed into his pool with all the speed he could make, and just as he was taking the plunge, our brave and cautious Munsterman had cleared his passage, and was left high and dry on the bank. After thanking heaven devoutly, he lighted the fire, and soon the whole country was in a blaze of joy. The three warriors were granted the whole Duffrey district for their services, and the successful champion determined to raise a splendid church near the pool in memory of the thing, and to show gratitude to God for his mercy; but he was warned in a dream to follow the first living things he would meet next morning, and build wherever they would rest. At sunrise he came out, and the first objects that met his sight were a duck and drake, which flew easily before him, a mile or so, and then alighted on each side of the stream, where the church and church-yard of Templeshanbo now stand. He raised a monastery on one side, and a nunnery on the other, and I believe became prior himself. The O'Farrells, the O'Briens, and O'Kennedys boast themselves the descendants of the three Munster heroes; and for hundreds of years back men only were buried on the east side of the brook, the women being laid on the side where the nunnery was built.

"Mr. Hackett, who has kindly taken an interest in the 'Leinster Legends,' suggests that this one is a recollection of dragon or devil worship of the Pagan times; the name of the old church of Kilmeashel in the neighbourhood being probably a corruption of *Kil Michel*, and St. Michael being the successful dragon antagonist of sacred and legendary lore.

"The county of Wexford being one of the earliest places brought within the English Pale, its genuine Celtic legends are comparatively rare. I have embodied in my little book nearly all the local ones that were current in the north-west of the county some thirty or forty years since.

"Being of the opinion of the gentleman mentioned above, that all these legends and customs arising from them date back from Pagan times, and would, if rightly interpreted, throw great light on the peculiar form of

Irish Paganism, whether the objects were the heavenly host, or attributes of the Deity, represented under the form of the cow, or the boar, or other animals,—I would be glad to see some signs of life among the archæologists of Wexford; for unless some exertion is made, their oral legends and traditions will be completely lost in that half-English portion of the island.”

Mr. Henry O'Neill sent the following observations on the true reading of the inscriptions to be found on the Cross of Cong, an ancient Irish work in metal, preserved in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy :—

“Through the munificence of the late lamented Dr. M'Cullagh, the Royal Irish Academy has, for some years, possessed a specimen of ancient Irish art, known as the Cross of Cong. This cross is of oak, covered with ornaments in gold, silver, niello, or black silver, enamel, coloured glass, &c., the whole forming an elaborate, artistic, and very beautiful example of the taste and skill of the ancient Irish. The work was evidently intended to be placed on a staff and borne in solemn religious processions. It is two and a half feet high.

“I have made drawings of both sides of the cross, the full size, for both sides are richly ornamented. All who have seen the drawings, or the original, must fully concur in the general opinion as to the high artistic merits of the Cross of Cong.

“This cross has inscriptions on it, versions of which have already appeared in the ‘Proceedings’ of the Royal Irish Academy for the 10th of June, 1850, Dr. Petrie having then read a paper called ‘An Account of the Cross of Cong.’ His versions purport to be accurate, being printed in Irish letters, and having also the marks of quotation (inverted commas). As they are far from being strictly accurate, no apology is necessary for laying correct versions of these inscriptions before the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society. The mistakes into which Dr. Petrie has fallen are the more surprising, because the cross was in the Royal Irish Academy at the time he read his paper, and the originals are as legible as one could desire, nearly as much so as a printed book; hence, accurate versions are so easily made, that I claim for mine no further merit than what is due to ordinary care, and am happy in having an opportunity of making known correct versions of inscriptions which, for their length, the monument on which they occur, and the period to which they belong, are deeply interesting to Irish archæologists.

“I have before mentioned that the cross is richly ornamented; this is the case on the front and back: the sides are plainer, and on the unornamented parts of the sides of the shaft—the ends and tops of the cross arms—the top and sides of the upper arm—and one of the upper curves, are the inscriptions. They are in the Irish character, and all, with one exception, in the Irish language. The exception is the following Latin sentence,—

✚ hac cruce crux te gitur quapahus conditor orbis

‘With this cross is covered the cross on which suffered the Maker of the World.’

“This sentence occurs twice, being on each side of the shaft; in one

case the letters of the sixth word are pahus, and in the other, pasus; it should be passus.

“The remaining inscriptions are in the Irish language; I avail myself of the translations given in Dr. Petrie’s paper:—

ORDOMUREDUCHUDUBTHAIGDOSENOIREREND

‘A prayer for Muireadach O’Duffy, the senior of Ireland.’

“Dr. Petrie makes the OR into OROIƿ, and puts an l between the U and the R in MUREDUCH. This inscription, Dr. Petrie says, ‘is mutilated by the loss of a part of the moulding which contained three or four words.’ There is not a letter of the inscription lost.

OROOTHERRDE̅LUCHONCHODORIGERENDLASANDERRNAD
INGRESSA

‘A prayer for Turlough O’Conor, for the King of Ireland, for whom [that is, at whose desire or expense] this shrine was made.’

“Dr. Petrie has changed OR into OROIƿ, has only put one R into THERRDE̅L, and has added bach to it; has made an A of the second O in CHONCHOD and has added bhAR to it; he has also omitted the three horizontal lines.

ORODDOMNUllm̄c̄PLANNACANUDUBDENITUPCONNACHT
DOCHOMARBACHOMMANACUSCHIARANICANERRNAD
INGRESSA

‘A prayer for Donnel, the son of Flannagan O’Duffy, Bishop of Connaught, and coarb [or representative] of St. Comman and St. Ciaran, under whose superintendence this shrine was made.’

“Though this translation expresses the sense of the above inscription, Dr. Petrie has not stuck close to his text; it should rather be—A prayer for Donnell, the son of Flannagan O’Dubdenit, for the successor of Chomman and Chiaran, &c. Dr. Petrie has also changed OR into OROIƿ, m̄C into mac, DUBDENIT into DUBTHAIGH, and UP into epSCOP; he has also omitted the two horizontal lines. I am uncertain as to the word UP; Dr. Petrie makes it stand for epSCOP, ‘bishop,’ and I have so rendered it on his authority.

ORDOMAELISUM̄C̄BRATDANUECHANODORIGNIINGRESSA

‘A prayer for Maelisa, the son of Braddan O’Echan, who made this shrine.’

“In this inscription Dr. Petrie changes the OR into OROIƿ, and the m̄C into mac.

“1st. Throughout the inscriptions, Dr. Petrie has introduced spaces between the words, and stops also, for which there is no authority in the originals.

“2nd. We also see that he has added *thirty letters* which are not, nor ever could have been, in the originals.

“3rd. He has omitted one letter (R).

“4th. He has put an A for an O, an E for a U, and THAIGH for DENIT.

“5th. He has omitted the horizontal lines which mark abbreviation.

"These errors show that a correct version of the interesting inscriptions on the Cross of Cong is a want in archæology.

"The abbreviations in the proper names, which occur in the third inscription, are very remarkable. The letters seem to have been marked on the metal (silver) by pressure, for, at the letters RU in the word CRUCE in the first inscription, the thin silver plate is gone, exposing the copper beneath on which the two letters are distinctly impressed; yet it is remarkable that no two letters seem to be exactly similar.

"To those who are not already familiar with the Cross of Cong, it may be well to state, that the inscriptions show it to have been made for Turlough O'Connor, who reigned monarch of Ireland from the year 1106 to 1156. He was a munificent patron of art; it was for him that the cathedral, and the cross of Tuam were constructed; of the latter I have given representations, with fac-similes of the inscriptions, in my work on the 'Ancient Crosses of Ireland.'"

The Rev. James Graves communicated, by permission of Archdeacon Cotton, the substance of a note which he had received from that gentleman, giving an account of some further proceedings respecting the Ogham monument which had been found built up in the wall of St. Declan's house at Ardmore (see Mr. Fitzgerald's paper on the subject, p. 223, *ante*), and which resulted in the discovery of two new Oghams; one of them on the stone alluded to, the other in the church-yard. Dr. Cotton stated that he had forwarded to Dr. Graves a rubbing from the former stone more than a year ago, but which was of course imperfect, as the stone was then embedded in the wall. On the occasion of his (Dr. Cotton's) last visit to Ardmore, in company with Richard Chearnley, Esq., he stated that he had secured proper help and tackle, and stood on the building whilst the Ogham stone was carefully disengaged, lowered to the ground, and conveyed by *ten men* into the chancel of the old church; they then washed its several sides, and took careful rubbings, and copies in small, comparing these again with the stone to see that all was correct. These rubbings and copies were subsequently forwarded to Dr. Graves. They found the stone to have been inscribed on *three of its edges*, so that one of the lines of inscription had been completely hidden in the masonry, and consequently before unknown.

The second inscription they discovered in the open church-yard. The stone on which it was cut was of great weight, and very hard, being composed of quartz rock. It bore but six or seven scores, and these were wide and coarse. It would seem that the tools of those who cut them could make but little impression on the stone, it was so hard. Near one end (the top as it originally stood) was a cross, inscribed in a circle, shallow and rudely cut, or rather ground, into the stone. This monument was also carried into the church, and a rubbing taken from it, which had likewise been transmitted to

Dr. Graves. Both stones are now open to public inspection in the church; but, at the same time, secure from chance of damage, being under lock and key.

The two stones are, respectively, 4 feet 9 inches, and 4 feet 10 inches in length. That which was taken from the gable of Declan's house was found to have *had a few inches knocked off its smaller end by the mason who built it into the wall, because otherwise it would have protruded beyond the line of his gable, and interfered with the slate or stone covering of the church.* This, observed Mr. Graves, proves the important fact, that the Ogham monument was earlier than the church, and had been used merely as a building stone, and not erected as a record of any fact connected with the church or its builders. Dr. Cotton also stated another fact, which it is well to place on record at once, viz. that a plain stone, answering in size to the Ogham stone removed from the building, was raised to the spot where the other had been, and the old stones of the gable replaced over it one by one; so that a non-learned or not very clear-sighted person, from below, would suppose that the Ogham was still there, and might even fancy that he saw the cuts on the edges of it.

The following paper was then submitted to the Meeting.

THE ULSTER CREAGHTS.¹

BY JOHN P. PRENDERGAST, ESQ., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

AT the commencement of the seventeenth century Ulster presented as marked a difference from the rest of Ireland as it has done in later times; but instead of being, as now, the most English part of Ireland, it was the most Irish. In other words, it remained in possession of the native race, free from admixture with any other except a few Scotch from the western highlands and isles, that in early times had made settlements and built castles in the northern and eastern coasts of Antrim.

In the earlier days of the English Conquest, Ulster and Down, to the east at least of the river Bann, had been colonized by the followers of De Courcy. But these settlers, consisting of the families of the Savages, Jordans, Fitzsimons, Chamberlains, Russells, Ben-

¹ A paper on this subject was read by Mr. Prendergast at the Meeting held July 19, 1853. For the reason stated, vol. ii. page 368, it was not printed in

the "Transactions" of the Society for that year. The paper has been since re-written, and contains much matter not before given.—Eds.